

August 28, 1975

Dr. Joseph R. Quinn
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Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Dr. Quinn,

Director-General Mahler of the WHO has asked me to extend my term of service on the Advisory Committee for Medical Research with a view to looking for ways to amplify the application of contemporary biomedical science to the special needs of world rural health.

It would be most helpful to me if I could get copies of the China health study series, in particular the Barefoot Doctor's Manual, but also whatever other items you are in the position to furnish. (I already have the book on anticancer agents; I do not think I will need the one on eye diseases or on surgical techniques; but I would like to see the one on neurology and psychiatry).

In another connection I would also be grateful for your volume on machine diagnosis and information retrieval in medicine in the USSR.

One particular point that occurs to me is the microbiological validation of the procedures for handling excreta that have been reported by recent visitors to China. If you know of any work along those lines, I would be grateful for the references.

Have you had any similar comments about the disinfecting drugs that are mentioned on page 36 of the Barefoot Doctor's Manual (which I was able to borrow briefly from our local library)? Are these plants indexed in chapter 8? Or should one assume that the arsenic is what does the work.

The Barefoot Doctor's Manual translation is an impressive effort!

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr
Enclosure